

piece of legislation, which I am proud to support.

As we have heard today, this legislation provides the foundation for the transition to the Next Generation Air Transportation System. This summer, as airline passengers faced unprecedented delays, we better understand the heightened importance of completing Next Gen. With 1 billion annual passengers expected by 2015, the transition from a radar-based system to satellite navigation is essential to maintain the strength of the aviation industry and provide our constituents with predictable flying conditions.

This bill allows an historic level of funding in order to prepare our Nation's airspace for the future.

I would also like to thank the Chairman for including, at my request, Seniority List Integration language in the Manager's Amendment. Nearly 7 years ago, American Airlines bought TWA—a great airline which had a long history of service in my home State of Missouri. Without any labor protections to look after their interests, TWA employees were unfairly stapled to the bottom of the combined work groups' seniority lists. As many airlines were forced to downsize in the aftermath of September 11th, these TWA employees, many with decades of service, lost their jobs as more junior American Airlines employees were retained. The result was the furlough of thousands of my constituents.

Given this unfortunate situation, it is appropriate that this bill provide long-needed labor protections ensure that a similar situation does not happen in the future. By providing for "fair and equitable" integration of seniority lists, we protect the employees of the purchased airline—without entering Congress into the complicated issue of how seniority should be defined.

This language means that future airline mergers will not result in the unfair treatment of one labor group.

H.R. 2881 represents a bi-partisan agreement to maintain the strength of our Nation's aviation industry. I urge support for the Rule and for the underlying bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 891 regarding "Recognition of Hunters across the U.S." Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a staunch supporter of United States efforts to curb nuclear weapons proliferation, I am deeply concerned about Iran's nuclear program and its potential

to lead to weapons development. This is especially troubling in light of the hateful and unfounded comments of Iran's President Amadenajad towards Israel, our friend and partner in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 1400 today because it is a fatally flawed approach to preventing Iran from acquiring such weapons out of its nuclear program. Instead, we should be adopting a comprehensive strategy to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, for only that will work. A comprehensive strategy includes diplomacy and incentives for Iran, and not just harsher sanctions alone, as this bill provides.

Simply put: we need a carrots and sticks approach to this problem.

Further, I believe that passage of this bill will needlessly complicate relations with the several of the nations with which we must work if the world community is to dissuade Iran from weaponizing its nuclear program, thereby rendering our non-proliferation efforts that much less effective.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to be successful in this critical effort to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, I believe we must put diplomacy and a policy of constructive engagement at the forefront of comprehensive efforts. This bill, instead, I fear begins a not so long march down the road of further confrontation in an already enflamed region.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ERIC D. COTTRELL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Eric D. Cottrell. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible man who died in service to his country.

Eric, born January 25, 1986, graduated from Rubidoux High School. Eric, an Army Medic, was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas. Cottrell, who joined the Army in 2004, was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Unit Commendation and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Staff Sergeant Cottrell was killed by a roadside bomb on August 13, 2007, in Qayyarah, Iraq.

In reading about Eric's life I was impressed by his devotion to his fellow soldiers. He had clearly earned the respect of his fellow soldiers because they called him "Doc." Eric was right there on the front lines, ready to help his brothers-in-arms who had been hurt. The recent tribute to Eric's life and sacrifice at Fort Bliss, Texas demonstrated Eric's impact on his fellow soldiers and how deeply he will be missed.

Staff Sergeant Cottrell is survived by his parents, Alan Waters and Mannie Cottrell of Riverside, California; his wife, Sherri Cottrell of El Paso, Texas; two daughters: Megan Cottrell and Brandy Cottrell, both of Pittsview, Alabama; two sons: James Christensen and Eric Cottrell, both of Pittsview, Alabama; and two

brothers: Norris Alan Waters of Pennsylvania and Christopher Waters of Hawaii.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Eric, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day Eric's family had to lay him to rest was probably the hardest moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Staff Sergeant Cottrell's wife, sons, daughters, mother, father, brothers and all his relatives have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that Eric, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Texas' mothers have sent more sons and daughters overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom than any other state in America. We have endured more casualties than any other state but one.

The American Gold Star Mothers in Texas and throughout this great nation have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing a child who served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives are sacrificed in war. Their sons and daughters served their country honorably and gave what Lincoln called "last full measure of devotion."

To these soldiers, we are grateful and humbled by their sacrifice. And to the Gold Star Mothers who have lost children our thoughts and prayers are with you always.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OVARIAN CANCER BIOMARKER RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly present the Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Research Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague, Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN.

Detecting this cancer early is the key to preventing deaths from this disease. In cases where ovarian cancer detection happens before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 93 percent of women survive longer than five years. When diagnosed in the advanced stages, the chance of five-year survival drops